

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

## NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner  
 US Department of Commerce  
 United States Patent and Trademark  
 Office, PCT  
 2011 South Clark Place Room  
 CP2/5C24  
 Arlington, VA 22202  
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE  
 in its capacity as elected Office

<b>Date of mailing (day/month/year)</b> 18 December 2000 (18.12.00)	
<b>International application No.</b> PCT/AU00/00454	<b>Applicant's or agent's file reference</b> 2293652/DBW
<b>International filing date (day/month/year)</b> 12 May 2000 (12.05.00)	<b>Priority date (day/month/year)</b> 12 May 1999 (12.05.99)
<b>Applicant</b> LOW, Sydney, Gordon et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:  
 01 December 2000 (01.12.00)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was  
☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

<b>The International Bureau of WIPO</b> 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	<b>Authorized officer</b> Charlotte ENGER Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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## PA JT COOPERATION TREAT

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NOTIFICATION OF THE RECORDING  
OF A CHANGE(PCT Rule 92bis.1 and  
Administrative Instructions, Section 422)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

WEBBER, David, Brian  
Davies Collison Cave  
1 Little Collins Street  
Melbourne, Victoria 3000  
AUSTRALIE

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 02 April 2001 (02.04.01)	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
Applicant's or agent's file reference 2293652/DBW	
International application No. PCT/AU00/00454	International filing date (day/month/year) 12 May 2000 (12.05.00)

## 1. The following indications appeared on record concerning:

☒ the applicant
 ☐ the inventor
 ☐ the agent
 ☐ the common representative

## Name and Address

SHARINGA NETWORKS INC.  
1310 King Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
United States of America

## State of Nationality

US

## State of Residence

US

## Telephone No.

## Facsimile No.

## Teleprinter No.

## 2. The International Bureau hereby notifies the applicant that the following change has been recorded concerning:

☐ the person
 ☐ the name
 ☒ the address
 ☐ the nationality
 ☐ the residence

## Name and Address

SHARINGA NETWORKS INC.  
1310 King Street  
Wilmington, New Castle County  
DE 19801  
United States of America

## State of Nationality

US

## State of Residence

US

## Telephone No.

## Facsimile No.

## Teleprinter No.

## 3. Further observations, if necessary:

## 4. A copy of this notification has been sent to:

☒ the receiving Office
 ☐ the designated Offices concerned  
☒ the International Searching Authority
 ☒ the elected Offices concerned  
☒ the International Preliminary Examining Authority
 ☐ other:
The International Bureau of WIPO  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

## Authorized officer

Catherine Massetti

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

MONDAY 11 DEC 2000  
From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTICE INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF THE  
COMMUNICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
APPLICATION TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICES

(PCT Rule 47.1(c), first sentence)

To:

WEBBER, David, Brian  
Davies Collison Cave  
1 Little Collins Street  
Melbourne, Victoria 3000  
AUSTRALIE

Date of mailing (day/month/year)

23 November 2000 (23.11.00)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

2293652/DBW

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

International application No.

PCT/AU00/00454

International filing date (day/month/year)

12 May 2000 (12.05.00)

Priority date (day/month/year)

12 May 1999 (12.05.99)

Applicant

SHARINGA NETWORKS INC. et al

1. Notice is hereby given that the International Bureau has communicated, as provided in Article 20, the international application to the following designated Offices on the date indicated above as the date of mailing of this Notice:

AG,AU,DZ,KP,KR,US

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c), third sentence, those Offices will accept the present Notice as conclusive evidence that the communication of the international application has duly taken place on the date of mailing indicated above and no copy of the international application is required to be furnished by the applicant to the designated Office(s).

2. The following designated Offices have waived the requirement for such a communication at this time:

AE,AL,AM,AP,AT,AZ,BA,BB,BG,BR,BY,CA,CH,CN,CR,CU,CZ,DE,DK,DM,EA,EE,EP,ES,FI,GB,GD,  
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NO,NZ,OA,PL,PT,RO,RU,SD,SE,SG,SI,SK,SL,TJ,TM,TR,TT,TZ,UA,UG,UZ,VN,YU,ZA,ZW

The communication will be made to those Offices only upon their request. Furthermore, those Offices do not require the applicant to furnish a copy of the international application (Rule 49.1(a-bis)).

3. Enclosed with this Notice is a copy of the international application as published by the International Bureau on 23 November 2000 (23.11.00) under No. WO 00/70479

## REMINDER REGARDING CHAPTER II (Article 31(2)(a) and Rule 54.2)

If the applicant wishes to postpone entry into the national phase until 30 months (or later in some Offices) from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed with the competent International Preliminary Examining Authority before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date.

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to monitor the 19-month time limit.

Note that only an applicant who is a national or resident of a PCT Contracting State which is bound by Chapter II has the right to file a demand for international preliminary examination.

## REMINDER REGARDING ENTRY INTO THE NATIONAL PHASE (Article 22 or 39(1))

If the applicant wishes to proceed with the international application in the national phase, he must, within 20 months or 30 months, or later in some Offices, perform the acts referred to therein before each designated or elected Office.

For further important information on the time limits and acts to be performed for entering the national phase, see the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 (Notification of Receipt of Record Copy) and Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The International Bureau of WIPO  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35

Authorized officer

J. Zahra

Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 07 MAY 2001

PCT

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2293652/DBW/RAB	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).
International Application No. <b>PCT/AU00/00454</b>	International Filing Date (day/month/year) 12 May 2000	Priority Date (day/month/year) 12 May 1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC <b>Int. Cl. <sup>7</sup> G06F 15/173, G06F 17/60, H04L 12/54</b>		
Applicant <b>SHARINGA NETWORKS INC. et al</b>		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheet(s).

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☒ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 1 December 2000	Date of completion of the report 26 April 2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer  <b>MICHAEL C. LANDER</b> Telephone No. (02) 6283 2494

**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application:\*
- ☒ the international application as originally filed.
- ☐ the description,        pages , as originally filed,  
   pages , filed with the demand,  
   pages , received on    with the letter of
- ☐ the claims,                pages , as originally filed,  
   pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,  
   pages , filed with the demand,  
   pages , received on    with the letter of
- ☐ the drawings,            pages , as originally filed,  
   pages , filed with the demand,  
   pages , received on    with the letter of
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:  
   pages , as originally filed  
   pages , filed with the demand  
   pages , received on    with the letter of
2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.  
These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, was on the basis of the sequence listing:
- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished
4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description,        pages
- ☐ the claims,                Nos.
- ☐ the drawings,            sheets/fig.
5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).\*\*

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

\*\* Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability: citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-18	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-18	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-18	YES
	Claims	NO

**2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)**

The following document identified in the International Search Report was considered for the purposes of this report:

JP 11-06882.

Novelty (N) Claims 1-18

The claimed invention is not disclosed in the above listed patent document and hence all the claims are novel.

Inventive Step (IS) Claims 1-18

The claimed invention is not obvious in the light of any of the cited documents nor disclosed in any obvious combination, nor would the claimed invention be obvious to a person skilled in the art in the light of common general knowledge by itself or in combination with any of these documents.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU00/00454

**VI. Certain documents cited****1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)**

Application No. Patent No.	Publication date (day/month/year)	Filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date ( valid claim) (day/month/year)
P, X WO 99/32985	1 July 1999	22 December 1998	22 December 1997
P, X WO 99/37066	22 July 1999	8 December 1998	13 January 1998

**2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)**

Kind of non-written disclosure	Date of non-written disclosure (day/month/year)	Date of written disclosure referring to non- written disclosure (day/month/year)
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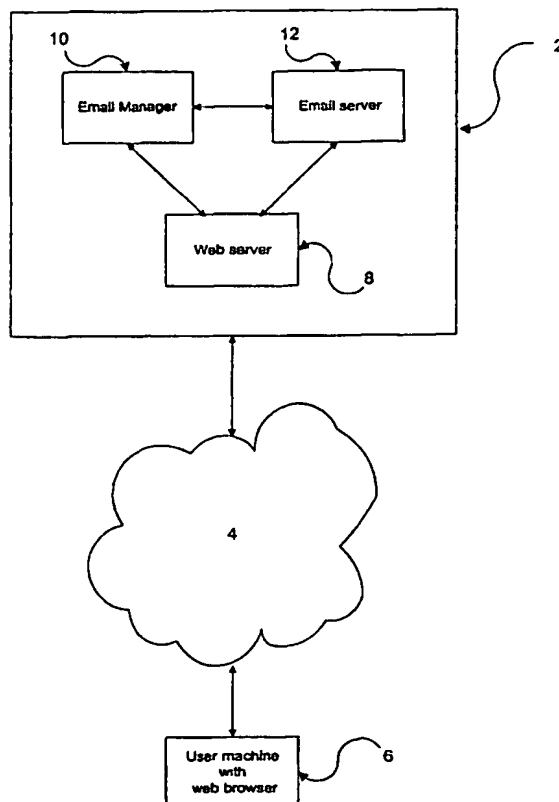
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<p>(51) International Patent Classification <sup>7</sup> : G06F 15/173, 17/60, H04L 12/54</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>(11) International Publication Number: <b>WO 00/70479</b> (43) International Publication Date: 23 November 2000 (23.11.00)</p>
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU00/00454 (22) International Filing Date: 12 May 2000 (12.05.00) (30) Priority Data: PQ 0302 12 May 1999 (12.05.99) AU (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SHARINGA NETWORKS INC. [US/US]; 1310 King Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): LOW, Sydney, Gordon [AU/AU]; 9 Evans Road, Kew, Victoria 3101 (AU). LANG, William, Dennis [AU/AU]; 39 Normanby Road, Kew, Victoria 3101 (AU). (74) Agents: WEBBER, David, Brian et al.; Davies Collison Cave, 1 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 (AU).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p><b>Published</b> With international search report.</p>

(54) Title: A MESSAGE PROCESSING SYSTEM

(57) Abstract

A message processing system (2), including an e-mail server (12) for receiving and storing e-mails for a recipient, and an e-mail manager (10) for processing e-mails for a recipient to determine if the e-mails are approved based on stored criteria, sending approved e-mails for the recipient to a location for access by the recipient, and storing and sending a notification to the recipient of unapproved messages.





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- 1 -

## A MESSAGE PROCESSING SYSTEM

The present invention relates to a message handling process and a message processing system, which may be used to deal with unsolicited and unapproved electronic messages.

5

Electronic messaging, particularly the use of e-mail over the Internet, has been enthusiastically adopted by large numbers of people, who have taken advantage of the inherent efficiencies and convenience of electronic messaging. One unfortunate consequence of Internet e-mail however has been the proliferation of unsolicited and unwanted e-mail messages, often referred to as "spam", which people receive. Various methods have been developed to restrict or prevent spam from reaching intended recipients. The methods have included both technical and legal measures which to date have met with mixed results. None have eliminated the problem of spam, nor prevented "spammers" from sending their messages and seeking to subvert the measures.

15

One of the technical measures includes applying a spam filter which processes an incoming message to determine whether it should be forwarded to the recipient or not. The disadvantage associated with such filters is that inevitably useful messages for the recipient are inadvertently filtered and never received.

20

It is desired to provide a method and system which provides a useful alternative or which allows management of unsolicited messages without seeking to simply restrict or filter incoming messages.

25

The present invention relates to a message handling process, including:  
determining if a message is approved for the recipient of the message;  
processing the message for subsequent viewing by the recipient if the message is approved; and  
notifying the recipient and storing the message if the message is unapproved.

30

- 2 -

The present invention also provides a message processing system, including:  
means for determining if a message is approved for the recipient of the message;  
means for processing the message for subsequent viewing by the recipient if the  
message is approved; and  
5 means for notifying the recipient and storing the message if the message is unapproved.

The present invention also provides a message processing system, including:  
an electronic message server for receiving and storing electronic messages for a  
recipient; and  
10 an electronic message manager for processing electronic messages for a recipient to  
determine if the electronic messages are approved based on stored criteria, sending approved  
electronic messages for the recipient to a location for access by the recipient, and storing and  
sending a notification to the recipient of unapproved messages.

15 A preferred embodiment of the present invention is hereinafter described, by way of  
example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a block diagram of a preferred embodiment of a message processing system  
connected to a communications network; and

Figure 2 is a flow diagram of the message handling process executed by the message  
20 processing system.

A message processing system 2, as shown in Figure 1, is provided by a computer which  
may be a Unix server. The system 2 includes standard web server software 8 and e-mail server  
software 12 so that the system 2 can operate as a web server and can also operate as an e-mail  
25 server, i.e. a standard POP3/SMTP/IMAP e-mail server. The system 2 also includes e-mail  
manager software 10 stored on the server which includes program code and database code that  
establishes a database on the server 2. The code of the manager 10 causes the system to  
execute the message handling steps described below. Although shown on one machine, it will  
be understood by those skilled in the art that software components 8, 10 and 12 of the system  
30 2 can be distributed amongst a number of machines in different locations, provided the

- 3 -

components 8, 10 and 12 can communicate with one another, as shown in Figure 1. Also it will be understood that the e-mail manager could be provided at least in part by application specific integrated circuits (ASICs) which execute the steps of the message handling process.

5           A user of the system 2 is able to access the system 2 via a communications network 4 using a standard computer 6 with a web browser. The communications network 4 may be, for example, the Internet or a LAN. For instance, the system 2 may be part of a corporate intranet, and act as a gateway for the intranet to the Internet. The system 2 may also be controlled by a service provider simply providing an e-mail service via the Internet. The service provider can  
10 then service any users which can connect via the Internet, including the users of corporate networks. Users, including companies, which use the system are registered and identified as being users by the e-mail manager 10. All e-mails for the users are then directed to the system 2.

15           The message handling method executed by the system 2, and in particular the manager 10, is shown in Figure 2. For incoming e-mails received by the system 2 for the users, at step 14, the manager 10 determines, at step 16, whether the e-mail message is approved. Approval of an e-mail message can be based on a number of criteria, with the simplest being whether the sender of the message is on a list of approved senders for the intended recipient that is  
20 stored on the database of the e-mail manager 10. If the message is approved at step 16, a forward procedure is executed and a determination is made at step 17 as to whether the recipient collects e-mail messages from the e-mail server 12 directly. If so, the message is stored on the server 12 at step 20 for retrieval from the e-mail server 12 in the normal manner. Otherwise the e-mail server 12 forwards the message to the recipient's e-mail server at step  
25 22 via the communications network 4.

          If it is determined at step 16 that the message is not approved, then the system 2 notifies the recipient, at step 18, that it has disallowed a received message for the recipient. The recipient can be notified by a number of communications methods, such as by e-mail or  
30 by a telephone call over the network 4. On receipt of the notification at step 18, the recipient

- 4 -

can direct their web browser to the web server 8 and view a list of disallowed messages. From the list, the user can execute a number of actions, such as read the message, select a sender of a message to be added to the approved list stored by the manager 10 or simply delete messages.

5

At step 18, the sender of an e-mail that has been disallowed by the system 2 is notified by e-mail that their message has been held in a pending mailbox because they were not on the recipient's list of authorised e-mail senders. The sender is also informed by e-mail that if they wish to ensure that the recipient reads the e-mail, the sender should use other means, such as  
10 telephone, to inform the recipient that they have been sent an e-mail and ask that the recipient add the sender's e-mail address to the recipient's list of authorised senders.

The manager 10 uses the e-mail server 12 to send the notifications at step 18 by e-mail, and the e-mail for the recipient includes a URL for the web server 8. A recipient can then  
15 respond to the notification by selecting the URL and pointing the browser to the web server 8. The manager 10 determines at step 24, after a predetermined period of time, whether or not the recipient has ignored the notification sent by e-mail. If the notification is ignored, the system 2 sends a return e-mail, at step 26, notifying the sender that the sent message has not been the read by the recipient. The message is then deleted at step 30.

20

If the recipient responds to the e-mail notification so as to direct the recipient's browser to the system 2, the browser communicates with the web server 8 which sends a web page, designated by the URL. The web page displays a list of messages not approved by the manager 10 with the recently sent message being highlighted or selected. The e-mail manager 10 then  
25 enters a loop 50 which allows a number of functions to be executed. At step 28 the manager 10 determines whether the recipient has selected on the web page an option to add the sender of the highlighted message to the approved list maintained by the manager 10. If not, operation of the manager 10 proceeds to step 32, otherwise the manager 10 will update the recipient's approved list to add the sender, at step 34, and then proceed to step 32. At step 32, the e-mail  
30 manager 10 determines whether the recipient has chosen an option on the web page to read the

- 5 -

highlighted message, and if not, operation proceeds to step 31. Otherwise, the message is displayed at step 36 for the recipient's browser, and operation proceeds to step 31. At step 31, the manager determines whether the recipient has selected an option on the web page to save the highlighted or read message, and if so, operation proceeds to step 33 to save the message.

5 At step 33, the forward procedure is called to execute step 17 for the message and proceed to either step 20 or 22 to save the message and then return to the loop 50. At step 35, the manager 10 determines whether the recipient has selected an option to delete the highlighted or read message. If so, the message is deleted at step 37, and operation returns to the loop 50. At step 39, a determination is made, based on activity of the recipient, as to whether the recipient has

10 directed its browser away from or closed the web page, and if so, the loop 50 is exited and operation ends at step 40.

The manager 10 also executes scheduled tasks 42 to delete unapproved messages on which no action has been taken by recipients for a predetermined period of time, and notify

15 senders as in step 26. Alternatively, the scheduled tasks may be set for a recipient so that unapproved messages on which no action has been taken for a predetermined period of time are stored or saved automatically by calling the forward procedure to execute step 17 and proceed to either step 20 or 22.

20 The above system 2 and management method are particularly advantageous as they provide users with the capability to manage unsolicited or unapproved e-mail messages without having the messages inadvertently removed by a message filter. The management facilities provided by the system 2 are web browser based, and provides significant additional management services to users of browser based e-mail services, such as those provided by

25 Hotmail and Yahoo.

Many modifications will be apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the scope of the present invention as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

- 6 -

CLAIMS:

1. A message handling process, including:  
determining if a message is approved for the recipient of the message;  
5 processing the message for subsequent viewing by the recipient if the message is approved; and  
notifying the recipient and storing the message if the message is unapproved.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, including, following the notifying step, allowing the  
10 recipient to view an unapproved message.
3. A method as claimed in claim 2, including notifying the recipient with a notification  
message having a link to network data representing a list of unapproved messages for the  
recipient.  
15
4. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the network data comprises markup language  
data accessible by a computer device of the recipient.
5. A method as claimed in claim 1, including allowing the recipient to set criteria to  
20 determine if the message is approved.
6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the criteria includes a sender of the message  
being on a stored approved list for the recipient.
- 25 7. A method as claimed in claim 6, including allowing the recipient to change the criteria.
8. A method as claimed in claim 1, including deleting an unapproved message a  
predetermined period of time after the notifying step.

- 7 -

9. A method as claimed in claim 8, including notifying a sender of the unapproved message of deletion of the unapproved message.
10. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the messages and the criteria are stored on an electronic message server.
11. A message processing system, including:  
means for determining if a message is approved for the recipient of the message;  
means for processing the message for subsequent viewing by the recipient if the message is approved; and  
means for notifying the recipient and storing the message if the message is unapproved.
12. A message processing system, including:  
an electronic message server for receiving and storing electronic messages for a recipient; and  
an electronic message manager for processing electronic messages for a recipient to determine if the electronic messages are approved based on stored criteria, sending approved electronic messages for the recipient to a location for access by the recipient, and storing and sending a notification to the recipient of unapproved messages.
13. A message processing system as claimed in claim 12, further including an access server for generating a display page with a list of unapproved messages, the notification comprising an electronic message with a link to the display page.
14. A message processing system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the list of unapproved messages includes links to the unapproved messages respectively and which on selection causes transmission of an unapproved message to a recipient's computer device for viewing by the recipient.



- 8 -

15. A message processing system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the criteria includes the sender of a message being on an approved list for the recipient stored on the system.
16. A message processing system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the display page  
5 includes a link to at least one display page for displaying and changing the criteria.
17. A message processing system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the display page includes a link for changing the criteria.
- 10 18. A message manager stored on a computer readable storage medium having code for executing the steps of the method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10.

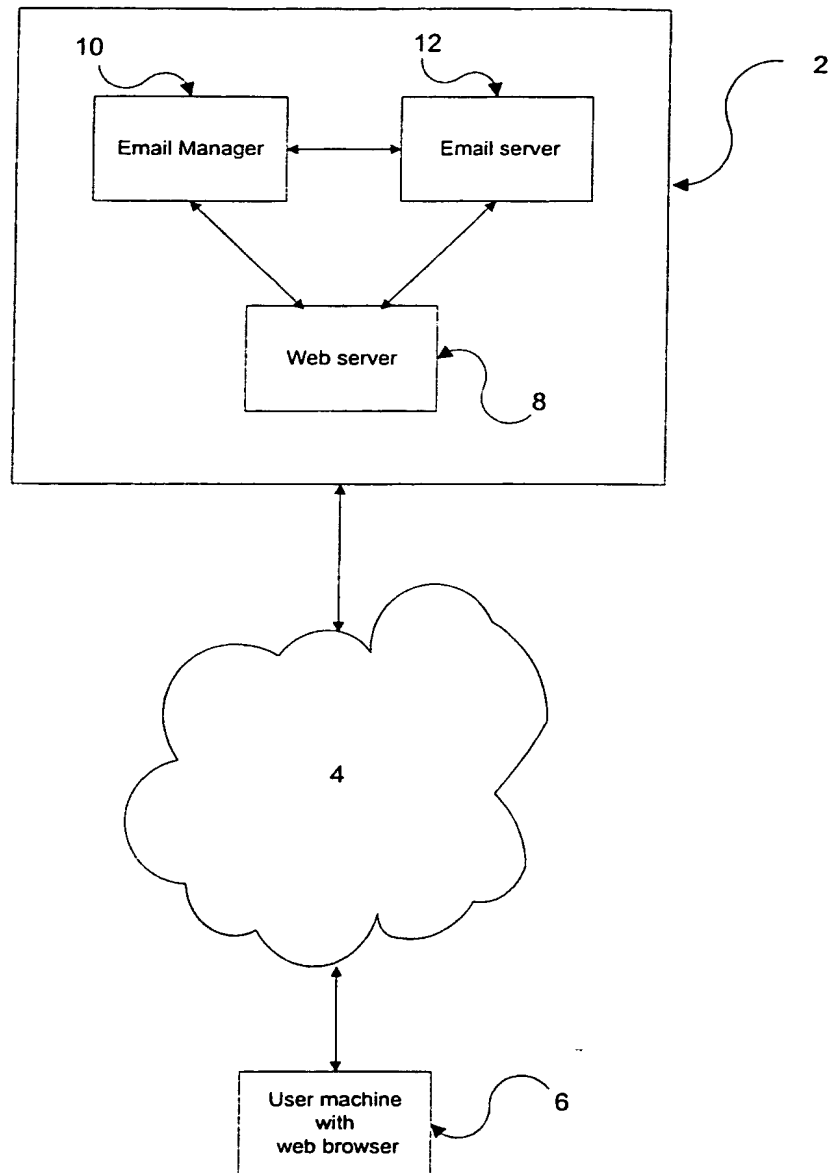


Figure 1

2/2

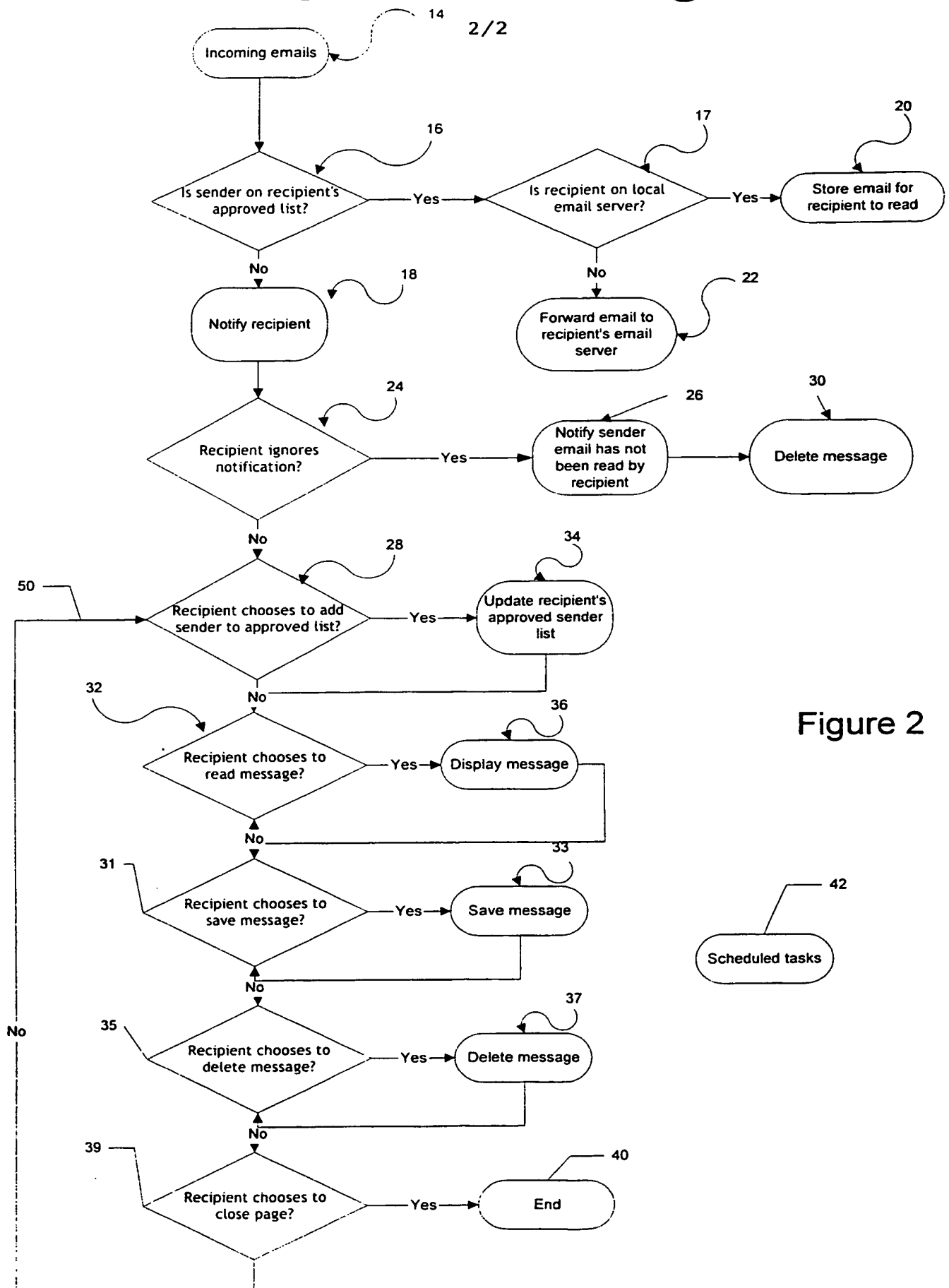


Figure 2

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/AU00/00454

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

Int. Cl. <sup>7</sup>: G06F 15/173, G06F 17/60, H04L 12/54

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: G06F --/--

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WPAT: mail and (spam or unsolicited)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,X	WO 99/32985 (McCormick et al.) 1 July 1999 See whole document but in particular page 3 line 32 - page 4 line 12.	1-18
X	Patent Abstracts of Japan JP, 11-068828 A (Murata Mach Ltd) 9 March 1999	1-18
P, X	WO 99/37066 (Bright Light Technologies, Inc.) 22 July 1999 See whole document but in particular page 2 lines 4-25	1-18

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C ☒ See patent family annex

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance  
 "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date  
 "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)  
 "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means  
 "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention  
 "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone  
 "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art  
 "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 June 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

27 JUN 2000

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU00/00454

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 99/67731 (Microsoft Corporation) 29 December 1999	1-18

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**  
Information on patent family members

International application No.  
**PCT/AU00/00454**

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report				Patent Family Member	
WO	99/32985	AU	19078/99	US	6023723
WO	99/37066	AU	17154/99	US	5999932
END OF ANNEX					